

Credential Recognition and Transfer Policy and Procedures

PURPOSE: To establish standard requirements to be met by all applicants currently seeking to become certified in West Virginia as an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT), or Paramedic, who are certified in equivalent levels in another US State or territory. These applicants **MUST** currently possess a valid National Registry or State Certification in a state other than West Virginia with 120 days remaining on their current certification.

POLICY: To ensure consistent standards and procedures for obtaining legal recognition of credentials held in states other than West Virginia.

PROCEDURE/REQUIREMENTS:

- A.** Create a valid WVOEMS account.
- B.** Create a valid National Registry account.
- C.** Submit a current complete online application to WVOEMS. Online application available at www.wvoems.org/ecert (See WV Code §64-48-6.5.a).
 - 1. Submit the appropriate fees (See WV Code § 64-48-6.8).
 - 2. Disclose any limitation or exclusion by any EMS agency, EMS Medical Director, or any other healthcare profession certification or licensing authority in any state, territory, or the U.S. Military Services (See WV Code §64-48-6.5.g.).
- D.** Be 18 years of age or older
- E. State and Federal Criminal Background Check:**
 - 1. Apply for and be cleared by the State and Federal background checks (See WV Code § 64-48-6.5.c.):

In the event that the WVOEMS official background check results have not been received upon the candidate completing the remainder of the requirements in this policy, WVOEMS will issue a 120 day temporary

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certification based on results from a third party preliminary state and national criminal background check service.

Third party background checks shall be directly submitted to WVOEMS. Background checks will not be accepted directly from the respective squad but instead through the agency performing the background check.

In the event that a temporary 120 day card is issued based on a third party background check, it is subject to revocation at any time should the WVOEMS official background check reveal information that would exclude the individual from legal recognition. Upon the WVOEMS issuing a permanent certification card, the temporary card is null and void.

- F. Demonstration of Equivalent Education:** Applicant must have completed a National Education Standards Course for the level of certification sought that is equivalent to WVOEMS approved courses. See WV Code §64-48-6.5.b.
1. Successful completion of a state-approved Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course that meets or exceeds the National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards for the Emergency Medical Responder as well as required State and Federal mandated education (See WV Code §64-48-6.5.a).
 2. Successful completion of a state-approved Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course that meets or exceeds the National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards for the Emergency Medical Technician as well as required State and Federal mandated education (See WV Code §64-48-6.5.a).
 3. AEMT education program appropriate for the level of certification as prescribed by the Commissioner and completion of the WVOEMS AEMT Module for Expanded Scope of Practice.
 4. Paramedic education program appropriate for the level of certification as prescribed by the Commissioner (See WV Code §64-48-6.5.a).

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- G. Demonstration of Competency:** An applicant must demonstrate competency by one of the following methods (See WV Code §64-48-6.5.d.):
1. **National Registry:** If the applicant possesses a current National Registry certification at the appropriate level, with 120 days or more remaining, the applicant shall submit a copy of their National Registry card to WVOEMS along with completing the other requirements outlined in this policy.
 2. **Current State Certification:** If the applicant possesses a valid state certification in a state other than West Virginia with 120 days or more remaining they shall meet the following requirements:
 1. Upon application for certification pursuant to WV Code §64-48-6.5, the Commissioner may issue a temporary emergency medical service personnel certificate to an applicant, with or without examination, who submits to a preliminary criminal history background check in accordance with section “E” of this policy.
 2. Applicants shall be required to obtain National Registry certification during the 120 day temporary certification period utilizing any method outlined by National Registry. The applicants shall submit a copy of their National Registry card to WVOEMS.
 3. Unless suspended or revoked, a temporary certificate shall be valid initially for a period not exceeding 120 days and may not be renewed unless the Commissioner finds the renewal to be in the public interest. (See WV Code §64-48-6.13.b).
 4. The applicant shall complete all other requirements outlined in this policy.

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- H. **State and Federal mandated education** – all applicants must complete the following requirements for the appropriate provider level within 120 days (See WV Code §64-48-6.5.e.):
1. Haz Mat awareness meeting OSHA 1910.120 or higher standards. This must have been completed within the past two (2) years.
 2. WVOEMS Protocol course for the appropriate level totaling **4 hours. This may require additional education to ensure competency in skills and medications not utilized in transferring states.** (*The exception to this is EMR which follow the standard of care and are exempt from this 4 hour requirement*)
 3. MCI or Disaster Management courses totaling **6 hours.**
 4. Approved CPR refresher meeting WV §64 CSR 48-6.7.a.4 at the professional/healthcare provider level.
 5. AEMT candidates are required to complete the additional West Virginia Module for the Expanded Scope of Practice.
 6. AEMT and Paramedic candidates shall also show proof of the following:
 - ACLS Refresher (or equivalent WVOEMS approved course)
 - PHTLS or ITLS Refresher (or equivalent WVOEMS approved course)
 - PEPP or PALS Refresher (or equivalent WVOEMS approved course)
- I. Proof of education shall be submitted in the National Registry State Education Tracking System (S.E.T.S.) online platform for each level respectively.
- J. Upon the applicant meeting all requirements of this policy, the 120 day temporary certification shall be terminated and a West Virginia certification awarded.
- K. **Important Notice:** An EMR/EMT/AEMT/Paramedic certified by WVOEMS must be continually certified by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) during the duration of your WVOEMS certification.

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Failure to retain uninterrupted National Certification will result in the immediate suspension of your WVOEMS certification and your right to practice in West Virginia.

This policy replaces all previous credential recognition and transfer requirements and policies.